

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.

S/S: PSBRIDGES (S/S 7700435)

S/S-S:EDENHAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PSDC IS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S FAREWELL MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER
RABIN

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY
TO PRIME MINISTER RABIN.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

IN TURNING OVER MY RESPONSIBILITIES TO MY SUCCESSOR, I
REGRET MOST OF ALL THAT I MUST SAY GOODBYE, AT LEAST AS AN
AMERICAN OFFICIAL, TO SO MANY GOOD FRIENDS WITH WHOM I HAVE
WORKED CLOSELY, FIRST AS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER AND SUB-
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SEQUENTLY AS SECRETARY OF STATE.

3. YOU AND I, AND OUR TWO COUNTRIES,HAVE BEEN THROUGH
DIFFICULT TIMES DURING THESE YEARS, BUT THEY WERE ALSO TIMES
OF GREAT ACHIEVEMENT. WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, OUR RELA-
TIONSHIP HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF MUCH SATISFACTION AND PERSONAL
PLEASURE FOR ME, AND I BELIEVE IT HAS ADDED A DIMENSION OF

STRENGTH AND UNDERSTANDING TO THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO

GOVERNMENTS. YOUR TENURE AS ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, AND YOUR LATER ASSUMPTION OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRIME MINISTER, HAVE PROVIDED A LONG AND UNIQUE PERIOD OF CONTACT BETWEEN US.

4. IN REFLECTING ON THIS PERIOD, I FIND PARTICULAR SATISFACTION IN OUR MUTUAL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT ON THE SINAI. WITH THIS AGREEMENT WE HAVE TURNED A CORNER IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AFTER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OF CONFLICT, AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT AS I LEAVE OFFICE THE CONDITIONS ARE MORE PROPITIOUS THAN EVER BEFORE FOR CONTINUED MOVEMENT IN THE DIRECTION WE HAVE CHARTED TOGETHER. SUCCESS IN THIS ENDEAVOR WILL CONTINUE TO REQUIRE THE CLOSEST UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, AND I HOPE AND FULLY EXPECT THAT THE BONDS WE HAVE HELPED STRENGTHEN WILL REMAIN STRONG.

5. I FULLY INTEND TO PRESERVE AN ACTIVE INTEREST, IN MY PRIVATE CAPACITY, IN MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS. I LOOK FORWARD, IN FACT, TO ENJOYING THE INFALLIBILITY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT SEEMS TO COME WITH AN ABSENCE OF RESPONSIBILITY. SERIOUSLY, YOU MAY BE SURE THAT YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE IN ME AN UNDERSTANDING FRIEND, WHO WILL DO WHAT HE CAN TO ADVANCE OUR COMMON PURPOSES OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

6. IN BIDDING YOU FAREWELL, MR. PRIME MINISTER, I WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIKE TO EXPRESS ON BEHALF OF NANCY AND MYSELF WHAT A PRIVILEGE AND PLEASURE IT HAS BEEN TO KNOW YOU AND LEAH. WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE FREQUENT OPPORTUNITIES TO REFRESH THIS FRIENDSHIP IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

WARM PERSONAL REGARDS

HENRY A. KISSINGER END QUOTE.
KISSINGER

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